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We hope you are finding the new Developments informative and useful. Please forward this copy to others you think would enjoy reading it.

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## Employment Trends

### February Unemployment Stats

Indiana's non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February was 5.5 percent. This is nine-tenths of a percentage point below the national rate of 6.4 percent.

Just under 3 million Hoosiers were employed during February.

Indiana's February unemployment rate was lower than Michigan, 7.2 percent; Ohio, 6.6 percent; Illinois, 7.1 percent; and Kentucky at 6.5 percent.

### April Unemployment Insurance Stats

Number of UI Claims Filed:

Week of 4-5-03 . . . . .	80,804
Week of 5-12-03 . . . . .	78,042
Week of 4-19-03 . . . . .	70,716
Week of 4-26-03 . . . . .	73,858

## JOBS Facts

### Job Opportunities and Business Services

As part of the recruitment effort, DWD will hold an increasing number of job fairs in order to attract workers to the targeted industries. The job fairs will begin at the state level to attract Hoosier workers.

If the worker demand cannot be met within the state, the job fairs will then expand to the national level. By using this exhaustive recruitment plan, DWD hopes to recruit the best possible workers to meet the employment needs of Indiana's industries.

For more information about JOBS visit [www.in.gov/gov/energize](http://www.in.gov/gov/energize).

INDIANA  
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An Equal Opportunity Employer

# Developments

HOOSIER WORKERS & LIFELONG LEARNING ONLINE NEWS

## Breaking News

### Airline workers may qualify for additional compensation

The president signed into law on April 16, 2003 the Airline Worker Extended Benefit Program, which includes additional Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation-Airlines (TEUC-A). These benefits are designed to provide extended unemployment benefits for those who have lost jobs in airline or air-related industries since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. TEUC-A creates special rules for eligibility for these benefits for certain displaced airline-related workers.

For additional information, visit our website at [www.in.gov/dwd/unemploy/whatsnew.html](http://www.in.gov/dwd/unemploy/whatsnew.html) or stop by your local WorkOne Center.

### C<sup>4</sup> Columbus Area Connection are national champs

The C<sup>4</sup> Columbus Area Connection Battlebot IQ Team and its entry, the Defenestrator II, came home from the national competition in San Francisco as champions. Their robot, which is equipped with two 24-volt wheelchair motors and power tanks that allows the arm –the weapon– to flip opposing robots into the air 25 or more times during a match, beat out 41 other high school teams.

The championship capped more than seven months of planning, fund-raising, designing and constructing by 11 students and instructors from North, East Hauser, Greensburg, and South Decatur high schools. The students are required to demonstrate highly technical skills including electronics, drafting, machine trades and welding. The team received plaques, tools and other prizes for their efforts. The mayor of Columbus proclaimed April 8 as C<sup>4</sup> Battlebot Day.

### Applied Extrusion Technologies awarded grant

The Indiana Department of Workforce Development awarded a \$200,000 grant to Applied Extrusion Technologies, Inc. (AET) in Terre Haute. The Incumbent Worker Training Grant will help leverage \$1,137,500 in spending by AET on this project and will fund the implementation of an innovative training program that was developed in conjunction with Ivy Tech State College.

The computer-based program will train 325 employees onsite and will allow them to master each phase of production. Employees will become more proficient in their own area of responsibility and also gain a better understanding of the rest of the production process.

"This grant will allow AET to address important training needs so that they can stay at the forefront of their field. In doubling the size of their Terre Haute operation since 1994, they have demonstrated their genuine commitment to Indiana. It is important that we demonstrate our own continued commitment to this firm and the quality jobs it provides for Hoosiers," said Alan Degner, Commissioner of the Department of Workforce Development.

This grant is a part of Indiana's Skills 2016 initiative, which is intended to give Indiana companies a competitive edge through a well trained and adaptable workforce. For more information please visit the website at [www.workforce.in.gov/employer/advanceindiana](http://www.workforce.in.gov/employer/advanceindiana).